



Tucson Human Relations Commission
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January 14, 2009

Honorable Mayor Robert Walkup
and City Council Members
City of Tucson
P.O. Box 27210
Tucson, Arizona 85726

Subject: Annual Report for July 2007 to June 2008 and July 2008 to June 2009

Dear Mayor Walkup and City Council Members:

I was asked to complete reports for 2008 and 2009 for the City of Tucson's Human Relations Commission. I was elected as Chair of the Commission in the Fall of 2008 and am glad to support the HRC and the City by filing both of these reports.

July 2007 to June 2008:

1. HRC commissioners attended 9 benefit events supporting nonprofits in the local Tucson Community.
2. HRC also received 9 requests for assistance. HRC did offer modest funding and support for 7 of the requests and did not fund 2 of them.
3. HRC developed an "Assistance Request Form" for groups and individuals to use when requesting support from HRC. This has helped to clarify what information HRC needs to make informed decisions about the requests.
4. Our other expenses included costs for
 - award plaques and certificates presented to the MLK Essay Contest participants, finalists and winners;
 - costs for the Annual Ray Davies Student Service Award event;
 - costs for the HRC Annual Retreat;
 - and membership in Southern Poverty Law Center (initiated by past Commissioner Ray Davies).

The events and programs that received HRC support:

1. Cultural Exchange Council - Tucson Meet Yourself

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2. Tucson Multi-Faith Alliance - Community Conversations (monthly community gatherings that bring people together of many faith traditions to discuss themes of community interest)
3. Planet Coexist for the "Sparks of Peace" Benefit Gala (event that brought together members of Jewish, Muslim and Christian ethnic/cultural traditions in dialogue, shared music and arts exchange)
4. Peace Walk Tucson for 5th annual Muslim-Jewish Peace Walk (Annual effort to evoke community dialogue and shared interests, especially between Jewish and Muslim communities in Tucson area)
5. International AIDS Candlelight Memorial Planning Committee/Wingspan(Fiscal Agent for Memorial) for Annual AIDS/HIV Candlelight Memorial
6. Jewish Community Relations Council-Tucson Freedom Seder (local event to bring people of multiple backgrounds/ethnicities together to celebrate human rights and freedom)
7. United Nations Association of Southern Arizona-Hope & Healing: UN in Observance of Torture Victims (local event to bring awareness of this issue and to honor survivors in local community)
8. Fundraisers and annual meetings attended:
 - Women's Foundation of Southern Arizona
 - Wingspan Annual Benefit Dinner
 - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drum Major Awards (partner for MLK essay contest)
 - Community Foundation of Southern Arizona Achievement Awards
 - "Sparks of Peace Benefit Gala
 - NAACP - 88th Annual Freedom Fund Banquet
 - YWCA -Women's Leadership Conference
 - 26th YWCA Women on the Move Awards Banquet
 - Educational Enrichment Foundation - Ray Davies Award Luncheon
 - Rosa Parks Scholarship Fund—The Ray Davies Student Service Awards is the event the HRC selected to raise funds for this important scholarship fund.
9. September 2007, we completed one hearing on an appeal brought by a citizen after a “no cause” finding by OEOP. We agreed with the finding of the OEOP of “no cause.” HRC was asked for input on updating the regulations regarding appeals. HRC commissioners found some problems with the timelines for filing appeals and those were modified to allow longer time to manage appeals.
10. HRC requested a budget increase but was unsuccessful.
11. HRC authorized expenditure to Randolph Park Hotel & Suites room, breakfast & beverages for Annual Retreat for July 2006 to June 2007, which was not held.
12. HRC worked on plans to continue with the Rabbi Bilgray award and Stanley Feldman Award, but nothing was finalized.
13. Tim Dunne resigned as he was appointed to another State Commission in January 2008.
14. Mitch Dorson resigned due to scheduling and work conflicts in January, 2008.
15. Maritza Broce was appointed to HRC for Ward III in June 2008
16. HRC continues to offer 4 HRC Advisory positions that are not filled to date.

July 2008 to June 2009

1. HRC commissioners attended 9 benefit events supporting nonprofits in the local Tucson Community.
2. HRC received 11 requests for assistance and provided modest funding and support for all of the requests.
3. Our other expenses included costs for:
 - costs for the Annual Ray Davies Student Service Awards event;
 - costs for the HRC Annual Retreat;
 - costs for business cards (ordered but not received to date)
 - and membership in Southern Poverty Law Center (initiated by past Commissioner Ray Davies).
4. HRC did receive some refunds for returned items.

The events and programs that received HRC support:

1. Jewish Community Relations Council-Tucson Freedom Seder (local event to bring people of multiple backgrounds/ethnicities together to celebrate human rights and freedom)
2. International AIDS Candlelight Memorial Planning Committee/Wingspan (Fiscal Agent for Memorial) for Annual AIDS/HIV Candlelight Memorial
3. Tucson Multi-Faith Alliance - Community Conversations (monthly community gatherings that bring people together of many faith traditions to discuss themes of community interest)
4. Peace Walk Tucson for 6th annual Jewish- Muslim Peace Walk (Annual effort to evoke community dialogue and shared interests, especially between Jewish and Muslim communities in Tucson area)
5. Coalition for African American Health and Wellness for “Black Church Week of Prayer for HIV/AIDS Awareness” events.
6. ITZABOUTIME Programs at local schools and community-wide event with musician Charlie King
7. Barundi Cultural Event: raising awareness about local refugees: their needs and contributions to local economy
8. Somali Bantu Association of Tucson Arizona: event to raise awareness about local refugees: their needs and contributions to local economy
9. Somali Bantu Association of Tucson Arizona: Summer Camp for local refugee youth and their families in a culturally supportive environment

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10. Catalina Magnet High School Graduating Class of 2008: financial assistance with purchase of caps/gowns, etc. for youth who cannot afford them.
11. Chicanos Por La Causa: support for this effective local nonprofit.
12. Fundraisers and annual meetings attended:
 - Women’s Foundation of Southern Arizona Annual Awards Luncheon
 - Wingspan Annual Benefit Dinner
 - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drum Major Awards
 - Educational Enrichment Foundation- Ray Davies Humanitarian Award luncheon
 - Amistades Segundo de Febrero Commemorative Dinner
 - Arts for All Charity Event (funds scholarships for Summer Camp that serves youth with or without disabilities)

- Treasures for TIHAN Event
 - MLK Celebration Drum Major Awards
 - NAACP 100th Year Celebration
13. HRC did not manage an Annual MLK Essay Contest for 2008-9. The HRC MLK Essay Contest Subcommittee did develop a theme. Sat Bir Kaur Khalsa presented the theme to Clarence Boykins, the President of the Tucson/SO. AZ Black Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Boykin's had requested that he manage the MLK Essay Contest for 2008-2009.
 14. The HRC again raised funds for the Rosa Parks Scholarship Fund at the Ray Davies Student Service Awards. A summary of the report received from Steve Alley, CEO of Community Foundation of So. AZ. The Community Foundation is responsible for the management of this scholarship, created by the HRC with Ray Davies and Rosa Parks. There are only two scholarships in the US authorized to use Rosa Parks' name, and the HRC Rosa Parks Scholarship Endowment Fund is one of them.
 15. HRC Rosa Parks Scholarship Endowment Fund *2008-2009 School Year* - A total of 66 applications were received for the general scholarship program at the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona. The general program funds students from all over southern Arizona, such that not all of the applicants qualify for the Rosa Parks Scholarship. Three students were funded from the Rosa Parks Scholarship Fund. *2009-2010 School Year* - A total of 92 on-time applications were received for the general scholarship program at the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona. The general program funds students from all over southern Arizona, such that not all of the applicants qualify for the Rosa Parks Scholarship. Two students were funded from the Rosa Parks Scholarship Fund and a third student received partial funding. The students sent thank you notes as well. This scholarship fund needs more donations as it is an important part of the City of Tucson's legacy to human rights, civil rights and education through the work of the HRC.

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16. New officers elected August 2008:
 - Chair: Sat Bir Kaur Khalsa
 - Vice-Chair: Glenn Howell
 - Treasurer: Victor Flores
17. HRC continues to offer 4 HRC Advisory positions that are not filled to date.
18. Glenn Howell resigned from GLBT Commission November 2008. Sat Bir Kaur Khalsa appointed to sit on GLBT Commission November 2008.
19. Yahya Yuksel, winner of Ray Davies Student Service Award, was appointed to an Advisory position. In October, 2008 he was then was appointed to HRC for Ward IV.
20. For HRC Annual Retreat, Robin Landers (Dir. of Armory Park Center) facilitated Commissioners to help us create a plan for July 2009 to June 2010. Part One of the planning process was completed. The next half will be facilitated by Robin Landers at the August 12, 2009 HRC meeting. HRC will also hold HRC Annual Elections at this meeting.

The Human Relations Commission looks forward to continuing to serve the City of Tucson in the upcoming years.

Respectfully submitted,

Sat Bir Kaur Khalsa

Sat Bir Kaur Khalsa
2009 HRC Chairperson